CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

A method for providing television functionality comprising:

\ defining a time period;

- associating a user preference with the time period;
- providing a first result in accordance with the user preference if a request for

 television functionality is received during the defined time period; and

 providing a second result if the request for the television functionality is received

 outside the defined time period.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is defined based on user input.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference is determined based on viewing parameters associated with services that are provided to a user.

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1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the viewing parameters associated with services correspond to interactive program guide (IPG) information.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the IPG information is stored in a memory contained in a digital home communication terminal (DHCT).

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the IPG information is received by the DHCT via a cable television network.

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to a user.

- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference is determined based on a duration that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference is determined based on a 2 frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference is determined based on a 2 duration and a frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference varies over time.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, where a functionality of a remote control key is disabled 2 during the time period.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, where a functionality of a remote control key is altered during the time period.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the television functionality is disabled during the time period.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the television functionality is altered during the 2 time period.

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- 1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the television functionality is limited during the time period.
- 1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period has an indefinite duration.
- 1 17. The method of claim 1, where multiple time periods are defined for providing a result in accordance with the user preference.
- 1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference is for a service.
- 1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference conflicts with another user preference.
- 1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is defined based on a time of day.
- 1 21. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is defined based on a day of a week.
- 1 22. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is defined based on a plurality of 2 days of the week.
- 1 23. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is defined based on a month of a year.
- 1 24. The method of claim 1, wherein the time period is defined based on a date.

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- 1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the request for the television functionality is
- 2 provided by activating a record key on a remote control device while a service in an
- 3 interactive program guide is highlighted.

- 1 35. The method of claim 33, wherein the first result comprises the recording of a
- 2 television service.

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- 1 36. The method of claim 33, wherein the second result does not comprise recording of
- 2 a television service.

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- 1 37. The method of claim 1, wherein the television functionality comprises
- 2 implementing a sales transaction.

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- 1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the first result comprises an implementation of
- the sales transaction.

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- 1 39. The method of claim 37, wherein the second result does not comprise an
- 2 implementation of the sales transaction.

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- 1 40. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference and the time period are
- 2 determined based on user input.

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- 1 41. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference is determined based on user
- 2 input.

periods.

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The method of claim 41, wherein the user input indicates a preference for a 42. 1 viewing parameter. 2 1 The method of claim 41, wherein the user input indicates a preference against a 1 43. 2 viewing parameter. 1 The method of claim 41, wherein the user input indicates a preference for a first 44. 1 viewing parameter and a preference against a second viewing parameter. 2 1 The method of claim 1, where a preference database is used to keep track of the 45. 1 user preference. 2 1 The method of claim 45, wherein the preference tracking database keeps track of 46. user preferences for a plurality of types of viewing parameters. 2 1 The method of claim 45, wherein the preference tracking database keeps track of 47. 1 user preferences in relation to a plurality of time periods. 2 1 The method of claim 47, wherein the plurality of time periods comprise a 48. 1 recurring schedule. 2 1 The method of claim 48, wherein the recurring schedule comprises daily time 49. 1

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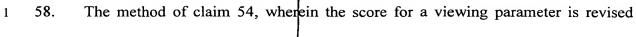
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- 1 50. The method of claim 48, wherein the recurring schedule comprises weekly time 2 periods.
- The method of claim 48, wherein the recurring schedule comprises monthly time periods.
- 1 52. The method of claim 48, wherein the recurring schedule comprises time periods 2 corresponding to weekdays and weekend days.
- The method of claim 48, wherein the recurring schedule comprises time periods corresponding to weekdays and weekend days, and holidays.
- 1 54. The method of claim 45, wherein the user preference is tracked by assigning a score to a viewing parameter.
- The method of claim 54, wherein the score for a viewing parameter may be based on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the viewing parameter.
- The method of claim 54, wherein the score for a plurality of viewing parameters may be based on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the plurality of viewing parameter.
- The method of claim 54, wherein the score for a viewing parameter changes over time.



2 using statistical analysis.

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- 1 59. The method of claim 54, wherein the score for a viewing parameter is determined
- 2 using an artificial intelligence technology.
- 1 60. The method of claim 1, where data identifying the user preference is stored in
- 2 non-volatile memory.
- 1 61. The method of claim 60, where data identifying the user preference is stored in
- 2 volatile memory and in non-volatile memory.
- 1 62. The method of claim 61, wherein the non-volatile memory is located at a headend.
- 1 63. The method of claim 1, where data identifying the user preference is stored within
- 2 a digital home communication terminal.
- 1 64. The method of claim 1, where data identifying the user preference is stored within
- 2 a headend device.
- 1 65. The method of claim 1, wherein the user preference corresponds to at least one
- 2 viewing parameter.
- 1 66. The method of claim 65, wherein the viewing parameter is a television service.

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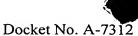
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- 1 76. The method of claim 65, where a look-up table is used to determine a user
- 2 preference for a plurality of viewing parameters.
- 1 77. The method of claim 76, where a number of viewing parameters represented in a
- 2 first look-up table entry is independent from a number of viewing parameters represented
- in a second look-up table entry.
- 1 78. The method of claim 65, where a plurality of look-up tables are used to determine
- 2 a user preference for a plurality of viewing parameters.
- 1 79. The method of claim 65, wherein the television functionality comprises a
- 2 presentation of an interactive program guide (IPG).
- 1 80. The method of claim 79, where information provided by the IPG is stored in
- 2 memory in a digital home communication terminal (DHCT).
- 1 81. The method of claim 80, wherein the information provided by the IPG is received
- 2 by the DHCT via a cable television network.
- 1 82. The method of claim 79, wherein the first result comprises an IPG that does not
- 2 provide information corresponding to a time slot that is not in accordance with the user
- 3 preference.



- 83. The method of claim 79, wherein the second result comprises an IPG that provides 1
- information corresponding to the time slot that is not in accordance with the user 2
- preference. 3

- 84. The method of claim 79, wherein the first result comprises an IPG that does not 1
- provide information corresponding to a television service that is blocked during the time 2
- 3 period.

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- 85. The method of claim 79, wherein the second result comprises an IPG that provides 1
- 2 information corresponding to a television service that is blocked during the time period.

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- 1 86. The method of claim 79, wherein the first result comprises an IPG that is
- configured in accordance with the user preference. 2

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- 87. The method of claim 79, wherein the first result comprises a presentation of an 1
- initial IPG screen that lists at least one television service that corresponds to the viewing 2
- parameter. 3

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- 88. 1 The method of claim 87, wherein the initial IPG screen lists a plurality of
- television services that correspond to the viewing parameter. 2

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- 89. The method of claim 87, wherein the initial IPG screen does not list any television
- 2 services that do not correspond to the viewing parameter.

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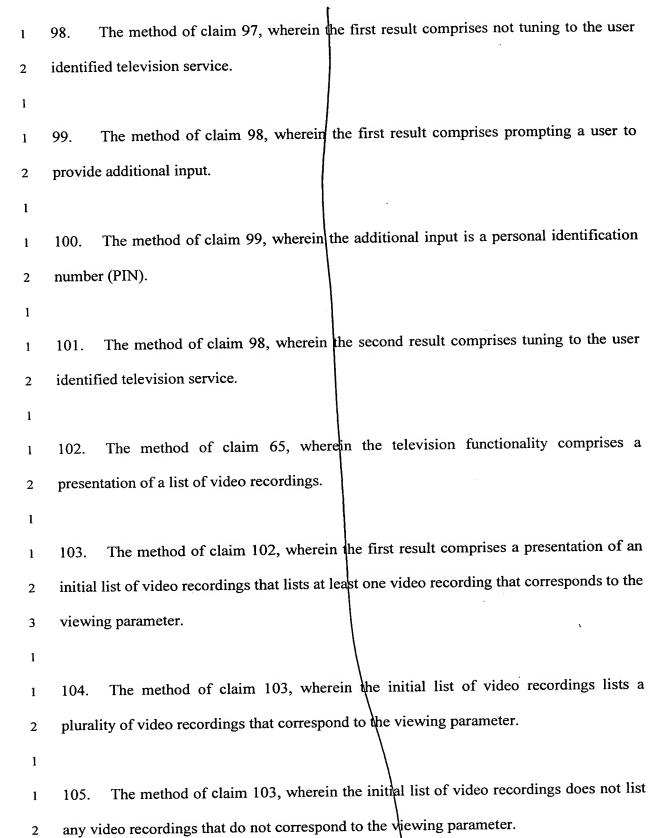
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- 1 90. The method of claim 87, wherein the second result comprises an initial IPG screen
- that lists at least one television service that does not correspond to the viewing parameter.
- 1 91. The method of claim 90, wherein the initial IPG screen lists a plurality of
- 2 television services that do not correspond to the viewing parameter.
- 1 92. The method of claim 90, wherein the initial IPG screen does not list a television
- 2 service that corresponds to the viewing parameter.
- 1 93. The method of claim 65, wherein the television functionality comprises tuning to
- 2 a television service.
- 1 94. The method of claim 93, wherein the first result comprises tuning to a television
- 2 service that corresponds to the viewing parameter.
- 1 95. The method of claim 94, wherein the second result comprises tuning to a
- 2 television service that does not correspond to the viewing parameter.
- 1 96. The method of claim 65, wherein the television functionality comprises tuning to
- 2 a user identified television service.
- 1 97. The method of claim 96, wherein the user identified television service corresponds
- 2 to the viewing parameter.





- 1 106. The method of claim 103, wherein the second result comprises an initial list of
- 2 video recordings that lists at least one video recording that does not correspond to the
- 3 viewing parameter.

- 1 107. The method of claim 106, wherein the initial list of video recordings lists a
- 2 plurality of video recordings that do not correspond to the viewing parameter.

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- 1 108. The method of claim 106, wherein the initial list of video recordings does not list
- 2 a video recording that corresponds to the viewing parameter.

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- 1 109. A method for providing a television service comprising:
- 2 defining a time period;
- associating a user preference with the time period; and
- 4 providing during the time period a television service in accordance with the user
- 5 preference.

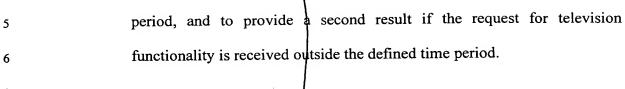
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- 1 110. The method of claim 109, wherein the television service is not provided in
- 2 response to user input requesting the television service.

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111. The method of claim 110, wherein the television service is a television channel.

- 1 112. A system for providing television functionality comprising:
- logic configured to associate a user preference with a defined time period; and
- logic configured to provide a first result in accordance with the user preference if
- a request for television functionality is received during the defined time



1 113. The system of claim 112, wherein the time period is defined based on user input.

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1 114. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference is determined based on viewing parameters associated with services that are provided to a user.

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1 115. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference is determined based on a duration that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

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1 116. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference is determined based on a frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

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1 117. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference is determined based on a duration and a frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

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1 118. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference varies over time.

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1 119. The system of claim 112, where a functionality of a remote control key is disabled during the time period.

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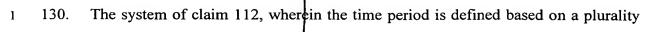
1 120. The system of claim 112, where a functionality of a remote control key is altered during the time period.

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The system of claim 112, wherein the television functionality is disabled during 121. 1 the time period. 2 1 The system of claim 112, wherein the television functionality is altered during the 122. 1 time period. 2 1 The system of claim 112, wherein the television functionality is limited during the 123. 1 time period. 2 1 The system of claim 112, wherein the time period has an indefinite duration. 124. 1 The system of claim 112, where multiple time periods are defined for providing a 125. 1 result in accordance with the user preference. 2 1 The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference is for a service. 1 126. 1 The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference conflicts with another user 127. 1 preference. 2 1 The system of claim 112, wherein the time period is defined based on a time of 128. 1 day. 2 1 The system of claim 112, wherein the time period is defined based on a day of a 129.



2 of days of the week.

1 131. The system of claim 112, wherein the time period is defined based on a month of

2 a year.

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- 1 132. The system of claim 112, wherein the time period is defined based on a date.
- 1 133. The system of claim 112, wherein the time period is defined based on a holiday.
- 1 134. The system of claim 112, wherein the time period is defined based on a time of day and a day of a week.
- 1 135. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference is defined by a user.
- 1 136. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference is determined based on tracking services that are provided by a digital home communication terminal.
- 1 137. The system of claim 112, wherein the first result is only provided if a preference-2 adaptive mode is activated.
- 1 138. The system of claim 137, wherein the preference adaptive mode is activated via a switch located on a remote control device.





- 1 139. The system of claim 112, wherein the television functionality comprises a
- 2 recording of a television service.

- 1 140. The system of claim 139, wherein the request for the television functionality is
- 2 provided by activating a record key on a remote control device while a service in an
- 3 interactive program guide is highlighted.

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- 1 141. The system of claim 139, wherein the first result comprises the recording of a
- 2 television service.

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- 1 142. The system of claim 139, wherein the second result does not comprise recording
- 2 of a television service.

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- 1 143. The system of claim 112, wherein the television functionality comprises
- 2 implementing a sales transaction.

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- 1 144. The system of claim 143, wherein the first\result comprises an implementation of
- 2 the sales transaction.

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- 1 145. The system of claim 143, wherein the second result does not comprise an
- 2 implementation of the sales transaction.

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- 1 146. The system of claim 112, where user preference is determined based on user
- 2 input.

- 1 147. The system of claim 146, wherein the user input indicates a preference for a
- 2 viewing parameter.

viewing parameter.

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1 148. The system of claim 146, wherein the user input indicates a preference against a

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- 1 149. The system of claim 146, wherein the user input indicates a preference for a first
- viewing parameter and a preference against a second viewing parameter.

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- 1 150. The system of claim 112, where a preference tracking database is used to keep
- 2 track of the user preference.

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- 1 151. The system of claim 150, wherein the preference tracking database keeps track of
- 2 user preferences for a plurality of types of viewing parameters.

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- 152. The system of claim 150, wherein the preference tracking database keeps track of
- 2 user preferences in relation to a plurality of time periods.

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- 1 153. The system of claim 150, wherein the user preference is tracked by assigning a
- 2 score to a viewing parameter.

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- 1 154. The system of claim 153, wherein the score for a viewing parameter may be based
- on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the viewing parameter.

- 1 155. The system of claim 153, wherein the score for a plurality of viewing parameters
- 2 may be based on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the plurality of
- 3 viewing parameter.

- 1 156. The system of claim 153, wherein the score for a viewing parameter changes over
- 2 time.

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- 1 157. The system of claim 153, wherein the score for a viewing parameter is revised
- 2 using statistical analysis.

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- 1 158. The system of claim 153, wherein the score for a viewing parameter is determined
- 2 using an artificial intelligence technology.

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- 1 159. The system of claim 112, where data identifying the user preference is stored in
- 2 non-volatile memory.

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- 1 160. The system of claim 112, where data identifying the user preference is stored
- within a digital home communication terminal.

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- 1 161. The system of claim 112, where data identifying the user preference is stored
- within a headend device.

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- 1 162. The system of claim 112, wherein the user preference corresponds to at least one
- 2 viewing parameter.

- 1 163. The system of claim 162, wherein the viewing parameter is a television service.
- 1 164. The system of claim 162, wherein the viewing parameter is a type of television
- 2 service.

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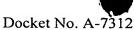
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- 1 165. The system of claim 162, wherein the viewing parameter is a television instance.
- 1 166. The system of claim 162, wherein the television instance is a television program.
- 1 167. The system of claim 162, wherein the viewing parameter is a type of television
- 2 instance.
- 1 168. The system of claim 162, where a look-up table is used to determine the user
- 2 preference for a viewing parameter.
- 1 169. The system of claim 162, where a look-up table is used to specify a restriction on
- 2 information to be provided to a user during the time period.
- 1 170. The system of claim 162, where a look-up table is used to specify a restriction on
- 2 information to be provided to an application during the time period.
- 1 171. The system of claim 162, where a look-up table is used to specify a restriction on
- 2 a functionality of an application during the time period.



- The system of claim 162, where a look-up table is used to determine whether an 1 172.
- 2 application is enabled during a time period.

- 173. The system of claim 162, where a look-up table is used to determine a user 1
- 2 preference for a plurality of viewing parameters.

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- 174. The system of claim 173, where a number of viewing parameters represented in a 1
- 2 first look-up table entry is independent from a number of viewing parameters represented
- 3 in a second look-up table entry.

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- 175. 1 The system of claim 162, where a plurality of look-up tables are used to determine
- a user preference for a plurality of viewing parameters. 2

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- 176. The system of claim 162, wherein the television functionality comprises a 1
- presentation of an interactive program guide (IPG). 2

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- 1 177. The system of claim 191, wherein the first result comprises an IPG that does not
- provide information corresponding to a time slot that is not in accordance with the user 2
- preference. 3

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- 178. The system of claim 191, wherein the second result comprises an IPG that 1
- 2 provides information corresponding to the time slot that is not in accordance with the user
- 3 preference.

- 1 179. The system of claim 191, wherein he first result comprises an IPG that does not
- 2 provide information corresponding to a television service that is blocked during the time
- 3 period.

- 1 180. The system of claim 191, wherein the second result comprises an IPG that
- 2 provides information corresponding to a television service that is blocked during the time
- 3 period.

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- 1 181. The system of claim 191, wherein the first result comprises an IPG that is
- 2 configured in accordance with the user preference.

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- 1 182. The system of claim 191, wherein the first result comprises a presentation of an
- 2 initial IPG screen that lists at least one television service that corresponds to the viewing
- 3 parameter.

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- 183. The system of claim 192, wherein the initial IPG screen lists a plurality of
- 2 television services that correspond to the viewing parameter.

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- 1 184. The system of claim 192, wherein the initial IPG screen does not list any
- 2 television services that do not correspond to the viewing parameter.

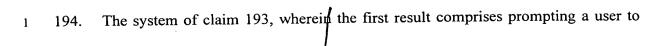
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- 1 185. The system of claim 192, wherein the second result comprises an initial IPG
- 2 screen that lists at least one television service that does not correspond to the viewing
- 3 parameter.

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- The system of claim 185, wherein the initial IPG screen lists a plurality of 186. 1 television services that do not correspond to the viewing parameter. 2 1 The system of claim 185, wherein the initial IPG screen does not list a television 187. 1 service that corresponds to the viewing parameter. 2 1 The system of claim 162, wherein the television functionality comprises tuning to 188. 1 a television service. 2 1 The system of claim 188, wherein the first result comprises tuning to a television 189. 1 service that corresponds to the viewing parameter. 2 1 The system of claim 189, wherein the second result comprises tuning to a 190. 1 television service that does not correspond to the viewing parameter. 2 1 The system of claim 162, wherein the tellevision functionality comprises tuning to 191. 1 a user identified television service. 2 1 The system of claim 191, wherein the user identified television service 192. corresponds to the viewing parameter. 2
 - 1 193. The system of claim 192, wherein the first result comprises not tuning to the user

provide additional input.



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1 195. The system of claim 194, wherein the additional input is a personal identification

2 number (PIN).

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1 196. The system of claim 193, wherein the second result comprises tuning to the user

2 identified television service.

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1 197. The system of claim 162, wherein the television functionality comprises a

2 presentation of a list of video recordings.

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198. The system of claim 197, wherein the first result comprises a presentation of an

initial list of video recordings that lists at least one video recording that corresponds to the

3 viewing parameter.

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199. The system of claim 198, wherein the initial list of video recordings lists a

2 plurality of video recordings that correspond to the viewing parameter.

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1 200. The system of claim 198, wherein the initial list of video recordings does not list

2 any video recordings that do not correspond to the viewing parameter.

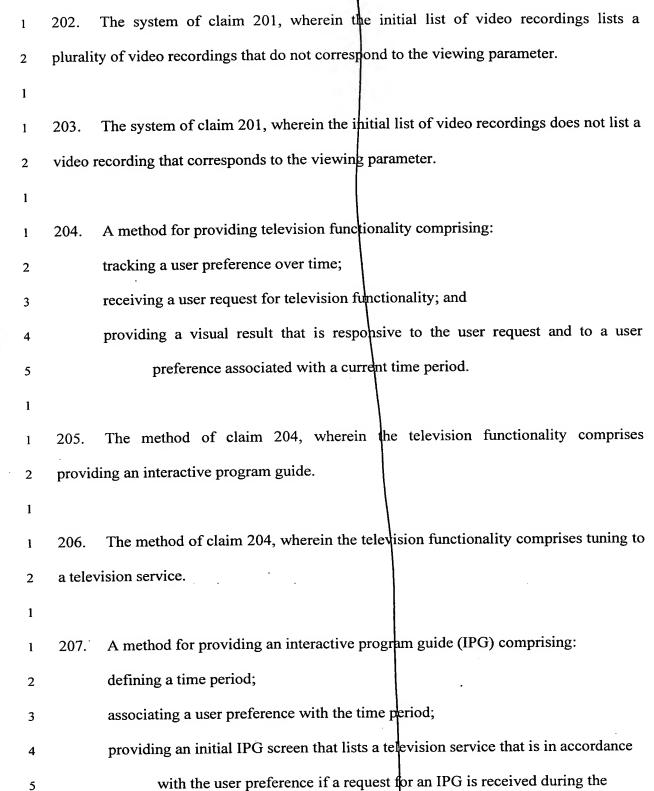
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201. The system of claim 198, wherein the second result comprises an initial list of

video recordings that lists at least one video recording that does not correspond to the

3 viewing parameter.



defined time period; and

	providing an initial IPG screen that does not list a television service that is in
	accordance with the user preference if the request for the IPG is received
	outside the defined time period.
208.	A method for providing television functionality comprising:
	defining a time period;
	associating a user preference with the time period;
	providing a first result in accordance with the user preference if a request for
	television functionality is received during the defined time period; and
	providing a second result if the request for the television functionality is received
	outside the defined time period;
	where the user preference is determined based on a duration that a service
	characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user;
	where the user preference varies over time;
	where multiple time periods are defined for providing a result in accordance with
	the user preference;
	where the user preference is determined by tracking services that are provided by
	a digital home communication terminal; and
	where the first result is only provided if a preference-adaptive mode is activated.